1292

COMIC SHOP NEWS

THE NEW DEADWARDIANS

Better Off Dead

How do you deal with a zombie onslaught? You can try the traditional methods—shotguns, axes, barricades, armed camps, and the like. That's the typical middle-class response, of course—but the upper classes of post-Victorian England are too sophisticated to follow that path to survival.

Instead, they've discovered there's a surefire way to render yourself absolutely unappealing to the zombified lower classes: become a vampire! And that's just what they've done in ***The New Deadwardians,*** an eight-issue Vertigo limited series by *Dan Abnett & I.N.J. Culbard.*

Dan Abnett is the first to admit that he never envisioned himself writing a tale of zombies and vampires, "two things I swore I would never write about because they had both long since jumped the shark. Don't get me wrong: I have a great enthusiasm for the classic tropes of horror—the vampire, the zombie, the werewolf, etc.—but I had generally kind of steered clear of them all, because they are all *very* popular these days. I couldn't see much point in deploying them in a story if I wasn't going to bring a new spin to them. As far as I'm concerned, other creators have done great zombie stories, great vampire stories... definitive takes, you might say. Then *this* story popped into my mind, and it really felt to me like a different way of approaching the concepts. It excited me because it felt like a way of bringing something fresh to he table. Please be tolerant of the zombie-and-vampire-ness of this... It's essentially a detective story set in an alternate history England, circa 1900."

Abnett explained the new social order that readers will find in the pages of this miniseries. "At the height of the Victorian Era, the 1860s, there is a horrific zombie plague. The British Empire goes to war—"The Memorial War"—to defend itself against the undead.

"They can keep the zombies at bay, but they remain a constant threat, so the ruling classes embark upon a program of voluntary, elective vampirism to protect themselves. They become sentient undead to live invisible to the mindless undead. The zombies can't see them or smell them, so they don't perceive them as prey. It's a desperate survival strategy."

Are Abnett's zombies the usual shuffling-and-grunting archetypes? "They're pretty conventional, though eerily quiet. Ian [artist *I.N.J. Culbard]* has created a very specific, chilling character for them. They wait. They kind of watch."

IT IS NOT THE SLEEP THAT I MISS, SO MUCH AS THE DREAMS.
I DO MISS DREAMS VERY MUCH.
I FAIL TO RECALL NOW WHAT MY DREAMS USED TO BE ABOUT SPECIFICALLY. I KNOW THEY WERE GENERALLY ABOUT HOPE, WISHES FOR THE FUTURE. THAT SORT OF THING.
NOW I HAVE MORE FUTURE THAN I COULD POSSIBLY NEED.
AND THERE IS NOTHING I WISH TO DO WITH IT.
TWMPP-GNNNGH
ROPER?
MRS. HEDLEY?
FOR GOD'S SAKE, ROPER! YOU'LL WAKE THE WHOLE HOUSE!
TNNMMF
MR. PUTTLE, SIR! WERE YOU CALLING?
DOWNSTAIRS.
SOMETHING DOWNSTAIRS!
IS MRS. HEDLEY IN THE KITCHEN ALREADY?

Speaking of Culbard, how was he chosen as artist for the series? What makes him a perfect match for the subject matter? "I *love* his work, so I asked him if he wanted to do this with me. He said yes. He really *gets it*. His research into the period and into London is as obsessive as mine," Abnett said with a smile.

How did the lower-class zombification come about, and who discovered vampirism as an "out" for the upper classes?And are there some normal, living human beings trying to survive in between the two undead extremes? "The answers to the first two questions there are part of our story, indirectly," Abnett said. "We'll be revealing the truths of the Deadwardian Era as we go along. And yes, between the vampire elite and the zombie masses there *is* a 'middle class' of regular humans, trying to get on with their lives."

The protagonist of the series is Chief Inspector George Suttle, a lonely detective who's got the slowest beat in London: investigating murders in a world where everyone is already dead. Is there a social order in this undead-driven world that requires a police force? And are there still vampire-on-vampire murders to deal with? "There's plenty of crime, especially in the regular human population," Abnett said, "but actual murder is very rare: it doesn't really apply to zombies and vampires, and regular humans respect life more than ever before. Suttle is the last homicide detective in the Met, retained to deal with the rare murder or murder-like cases."

Suttle's life changes radically when the body of a young aristocrat washes up on the banks of the Thames. The case falls to Suttle, who discovers that this is a murder unlike any he's ever investigated previously. Does the murder involve both vampires and zombies? "Yes," Abnett said emphatically. "With *huge* implications for vampires."

Abnett describes Suttle as "sad and quiet. He's a vampire now, so he's still apparently a young man, but he's seen a lot. He served in the Memorial War, the anti-zombie campaign at the start of the plague, and he truly misses certain normal human parts of life. He's a homicide detective—the *last* homicide detective at Scotland Yard. Murder isn't what it used to be."

Will Suttle's investigation be a solo effort, or will he have allies in his quest for the truth? "He'll find a few allies—and not exactly who he expects," Abnett said.

The New Deadwardians takes place in England—but what about the rest of the world? Are they struggling with the zombie problem as well? "Yes—the situation is essentially global," Abnett said. "We may reveal how other parts of the world are dealing with it."

How much of Edwardian British history as we know survives in the world of ***The New Deadwardians?*** "As much as can withstand the trauma," Abnett said. "I'd like to find an equivalent or analog for as many of the main historical threads of the period as possible."

Of course, the post-Victorian era was a time of historic changes in our reality; is this one reason why Abnett chose to set his story during this era? "The political and social changes and themes of the era are very much here, although all are curiously lensed through the new social order of this version of history. Social layers are much more about security and safety and free will than about wealth, *per se,* although it helps to be wealthy. You can afford a better quality of death."

The idea of an alternate-history England reshaped by vampirism has previously been explored by such authors as *Kim Newman,* who posited an intriguing view of an increasingly-vampiric England in the novel ***Anno-Dracula*** and its sequels (a concept that was initially developed in conversations between Newman and *Neil Gaiman,* who initially planned to co-write portions of the series). Newman took the series from the end of the 19th Century well into the modern era; has Abnett thought as far ahead for his world? "First off, I have to say that Kim's work is great! And like him, I can see ways of extrapolating this 'reality' out quite a distance into the twentieth or even twenty first centuries."

Don't look for other characters from Victorian or post-Victorian to pop up in ***The New Deadwardians.*** "Not fictional—but certainly historical, if and when appropriate!" Abnett said.

Does Abnett build to a definitive ending for ***The New Deadwardians*** in this miniseries, or does the world offer so many possibilities that he—and readers—can revisit it indefinitely? "This first 'case' has a definite ending," Abnett said. "There is a satisfying, finite conclusion to the story we start telling in issue one. But the world itself does not end, and there are many more things we could do with it."

In addition to the vampires and zombies at the center of the story, does Abnett utilize any other horror archetypes? "Not initially, but it's always a possibility," Abnett said, "if we can find an unconventional way to do it."

The New Deadwardians #1, a $2.99 comic by *Dan Abnett & I.N.J. Culbard,* is scheduled for March 28th release. The book is offered in a standard edition with a Culbard cover, as well as a 1-for-10 variant featuring cover art by *Cliff Chiang.*

by Cliff Biggers

IT'S DEAD.
IT BROKE IN, SOMEHOW. DID FOR MY POOR HOUSEKEEPER.
IS THAT YOUR FIREARM, SIR?
IT'S MY SERVICE WEAPON. I SAW DUTY IN THE MEMORIAL WAR.
AND THIS IS YOUR ABODE?
YOU'D BETTER SEE MY WARRANT CARD, SERGEANT.
CHIEF INSPECTOR GEORGE SUTTLE, MURDER SQUAD.
I'M SORRY, SIR. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WAS OLD BILL TOO.
I'M MOST TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT YOUR WOMAN, SIR.
MRS. HEDLEY DESERVED A BETTER END.
PLEASE CORDON THE AREA. TEMPORARY ZONE-B RESTRICTIONS. CLEAN UP AND PREPARE BOTH CADAVERS FOR INCINERATION.
I'LL JUST CHECK AROUND TO MAKE SURE IT WAS ALONE.
HAVE A CARE, SIR! IF THERE'S ANOTHER AND IT SMELLS YOU--
-OH. BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR. OF COURSE IT WON'T SMELL YOU.
CARRY ON, SERGEANT.

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Dysart & Evans: Harbingers of Things to Come at Valiant

CSN #1289 told you all about Valiant's premiere offering, the return of *X-O Manowar* by *Robert Venditti & Cary Nord.* Now we can tell you that Valiant's second offering, debuting in June, will be *Harbinger #1,* produced by the creative team of *Joshua Dysart & Khari Evans.*

Skipping across America in a desperate attempt to stay ahead of the authorities, Peter Stanchek is learning that he's much more than an out-of-work and on-the-run teenager; he is in fact a psionically-powered "harbinger" with the potential to change the course of human history. Now, respected philanthropist and fellow psionic Toyo Harada has come to guide Peter out of harm's way and teach his new pupil what it truly means to wield power. But Harada isn't as charitable as he might seem -- and the repercussions of these two superhuman harbingers coming face to face might shatter the very planet he hopes to save.

"The idea of really getting a chance to dig in and build an epic mythology populated by a fully-realized cast of characters, all centered around *Jim Shooter & David Lapham's* original premise, is super-exhilarating to me," said Dysart. "I've been looking for a book to write that could be dark, weird, trippy, fun, real, unreal, violent and thematically ambitious. All the things I look for in fantastic fiction myself.

Harbinger is that book, so I'm pretty damn excited about it."

"From page one, this has book has been a total blast," Evans added. "It's a story that begins with Harada and Peter, but soon escalates to include so much more. Working with this cast has been a lot of fun."

"Peter Stanchek and Toyo Harada come from diametrically opposite places in this world," Valiant executive editor *Warren Simons* explained. "Peter's a broke, disillusioned eighteen-year-old who sees the American Dream as nothing more than a fiction from another time. Toyo Harada is a self-made billionaire who's watched the promise of the baby boomers disintegrate into self-interest. These two are inexorably linked by their extraordinary powers, but just because they share a bond doesn't mean they share an ideology. Their eventual collision is unavoidable."

Harbinger #1 is slated for early June release.

Boom's Feline Pretty Happy Right Now

Jim Davis's famous feline creation is coming to comics this spring!

Mark Evanier (writer of ***The Garfield Show, Garfield & Friends*** and ***Groo)*** *& Gary Barker* do the honors on ***Garfield #1,*** the kickoff issue of an original ongoing ***Garfield*** series produced by under Boom's all-ages Kaboom! imprint in partnership with Paws, Inc.

"We're excited to be working with Boom Studios to bring fans the first comic book with Cattitude," *Jim Davis*, Garfield's creator, said. "Watch out, Dark Knight and Man of Steel...here comes Garfield!"

"We are incredibly honored to work with this character and this creative team," Boom Studios Founder and Chief Executive Officer *Ross Richie* said. "*Mark Evanier* wrote or co-wrote nearly

every episode of seven seasons of the show ***Garfield and Friends***, one of the longest-running Saturday Morning cartoon shows in history, and works on ***The Garfield Show*** right now. He, along with strip artist *Gary Barker*, were hand-picked by *Jim Davis* himself, so we *know* we've got just the right creative team."

"We can't wait to tell new Garfield stories," Boom Studios Editor-in-Chief *Matt Gagnon* added. "We have two awesome creators who have had their hand in the Garfield world for a very long time. We couldn't ask for better creators to work with and bring the world of lasagna, hated Mondays and diets to the direct market."

The original adventures of Garfield, Jon, Odie, and the rest of the gang begin in mid-May with the release of ***Garfield #1.*** Veteran ***Garfield*** fans will find the 1-for-30 variant edition particularly interesting, since it features a version of Garfield as he originally appeared when the strip debuted.

Taking a First Look at Earth 2

A couple of months ago, *CSN* first told you about the upcoming *Earth 2* series, which offers a look at DC's heroes from an alternate universe, and ***World's Finest,*** which finds Earth 2's Robin and Supergirl (known in our world as Huntress and Power Girl) trapped in the New 52 DCU and searching for a way home. Now, on their blog ***The Source,*** DC has offered a look at some of the character design for the New 52 heroes.

First up is *Jim Lee's* design for Superman. "Mourning the death of his beloved, Superman carries both a sadness in his heart along with the weight of Earth 2's welfare upon on his shoulders, while never showing this and seeming to all that he is this world's peerless champion," explained ***Earth 2*** writer *James Robinson.*

"What would you have to do to teach Superman to kill?" ***Earth 2*** editor *Pat McCallum* asked. "He's endured the loss of his home world, and now the Last Son of Krypton must weather the death of his soul mate Lois Lane. Just how far can you bend the Man of Steel before he breaks?"

Kevin Maguire contributes the design for the Supergirl of Earth 2, whose costume shares several common elements with Superman's. "Superman's cousin loves her adopted world with a passion, seeing how the people of Earth have adopted her and taken her to their hearts," Robinson said. "She is definitely the brightest light among this first group of Earth 2 heroes."

"As readers of ***Mister Terrific*** already know, Karen has been busy since she arrived on the main DCU Earth, creating a successful company and dating the brilliant Michael Holt," ***World's Finest*** editor *Wil Moss* said. "But what are her true motives behind those actions? How did she get here? And what incident prompts her to take up her new identity of Power Girl? Find out in ***Worlds Finest #1.***"

Maguire also did the redesign for the

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
THIS IS WHY NOBODY NOTICED MY GATE-CRASHING!
EVERYONE'S FALLEN UNDER SOME SORT OF SPELL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-5
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
IT MUST BE THE WORK OF LOKI!
THOR WARNED ME ABOUT HIM!

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2012 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS
Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Robin of Earth 2, Helena Wayne. "Helena has been taught how to be the perfect Robin," Robinson said. "Assured as a detective, fighter, scientist, pilot and all around crime-fighter she's been groomed by Batman to be the perfect caped man-hunter (or should we say manHuntress) when she grows up."

"Before coming to the main DCU Earth and taking up the mantle of Huntress, Helena Wayne fought crime alongside her father as the Robin to his Batman on Earth-2!" Moss explained. "But how did she come to be on this Earth? And why did she decide to become Huntress? You'll get some clues in next week's ***Huntress #6*** but for the real scoop, pick up ***Worlds' Finest #1.***"

Jim Lee did the design honors on the Earth 2 Wonder Woman. ""Due the events that open the saga of ***Earth 2***, Wonder Woman is already the last Amazon of this world and she is determined to avenge her sisters...at whatever cost," Robinson said.

"How did Wonder Woman come to be the last of the Amazons?" McCallum asked. "It's one of the mysteries we'll be getting into with the series. While there will be recognizable faces and settings on ***Earth 2***, don't for a moment think you're on familiar ground..."

Lee also redesigned Earth 2's Dark Knight, presenting a very different look for a very different Batman. "Who will Batman kill to save his own daughter?" McCallum asked. "Right out of the gate, that should tell you we're dealing with a different kind of Dark Knight here. More ruthless, dangerous...the costume is familiar and yeah, there is a Wayne under the mask, but we're looking at a man desperate to save the only family he has left. ***Earth 2*** is about to become a very bad place to be a bad guy."

Earth 2 #1 and ***Worlds' Finest #1*** are both slated for May 2nd release;

CSNsider

•***Life With Archie #16,*** featuring the alternate-reality gay marriage of Kevin Keller, has sold out within days of release. No word yet regarding a possible second printing...

•*Arthur Suydam* returns to zombieland in April—not at Marvel, but at Boom Studios, where he'll be supplying the CGC 9.8 1-in-100 variant cover for ***Fanboys Vs. Zombies #1,*** an offbeat series created by *Jimmy Fox & Ben Silverman,* written by *Sam Humphries,* and illustrated by *Jerry Gaylord.* In this ongoing horror-humor tale, a crew of feuding best friends find themselves trapped inside America's largest comic convention transformed into a seething cauldron of zombies. "***Fanboys Vs. Zombies*** is the UFC of nerd battles," Humphries said. "Hall H is going to be turned into an action/horror/comedy abattoir. I've been going to San Diego Comic Con for ten years. Plenty of time to formulate a zombie apocalypse getaway *and* a plan for total Comic Con devastation. It is going to be *so* on."

"This is the real 'Revenge of *The* Nerds'," editor-in-chief Matt Gagnon added. "It's a fun story where nerds really do get to save the day. All the skills these characters have honed in the geek world finally get to be used in real life."

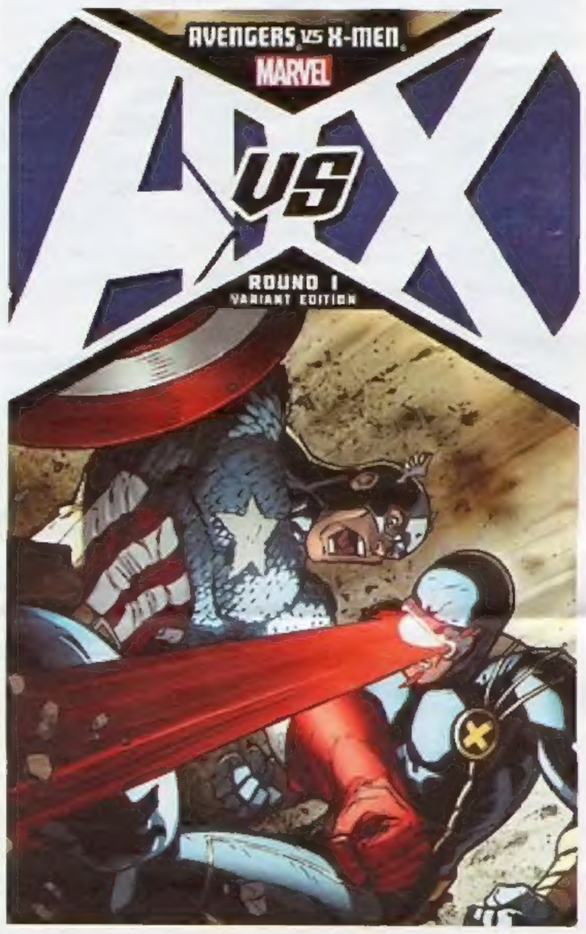
This is the 2nd title for which Boom has offered a CGC-graded 9.8 limited variant; they kicked off the marketing strategy with ***Valen the Outcast #1.*** These graded-and-slabbed books are among the rarest of all variants, and readers are assured they're getting a near-perfect copy. Boom will also offer three regular covers by *Humberto Ramos; Ale Garza, & Khary Randolph;* a 1-for-10 cover by *Matteo Scalera;* a 1-for-25 "Where's the Zombie" variant by *Ulises Farinas;* a 1-for-50 sketch incentive by *Humberto Ramos;* and a 1-for-75 sketch variant by *Ale Garza.*

•*Shawn Crystal* replaces *Ale Garza* as artist of ***Deadpool #55.***

•***Secret Service*** by *Mark Millar & Dave Gibbons,* initially solicited by Marvel as an ongoing series, is actually a 7-issue limited series.

•***Supercrooks*** by *Mark Millar & Leinil Francis Yu,* originally solicited by Marvel as an ongoing series, is actually a four-issue miniseries.

•*Ryan Stegman's* variant cover edition of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #1*** was initially announced by Marvel as a 1-for-25 cover

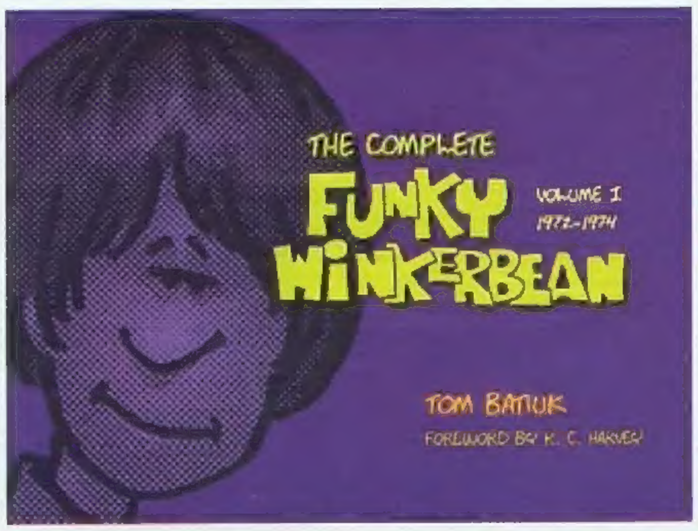


variant; it's actually a *1-for-200* cover variant.

•***Brilliant*** by *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley,* originally solicited by Marvel as a six-issue limited series, is actually an ongoing series.

•*Jonathan Hickman* has confirmed that he is leaving ***Fantastic Four*** later this year. So who's taking over for him, and what plans do they have for Marvel's First Family? You'll find out here in the near future—and you'll also find out what project Hickman is tackling next!

IF LOKI PUT THESE ASGARDIANS UNDER A SPELL--
—HE MUST HAVE PUT MARY JANE IN A COMA!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
3-6
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



•***Funky Winkerbean*** creator *Tom Batiuk* has announced plans to launch ***The Complete Funky Winkerbean;*** the kickoff trade paperback will feature the first three years of the strip (from 1972 through 1974), introducing the strip's title character, Funky, and his friends Crazy Harry Klinghorn, Bull Bushka, Livinia Swenson, Les Moore, Holly Budd, and Roland Mathews. Principal Burch, counselor Fred Fairgood, and band director Harry L. Dinkle also make their first appearances. The book also features an autobiographical introduction by Batiuk that shares his early attempts at cartooning, discusses his teaching career, and explains the genesis of Funky

•Arcana Comics has announced that they have completed a deal to secure the rights to numerous characters previously published by Bluewater; among the mor ethan two dozen the titles that will soon debut under the Arcana banner are ***10th Muse, Legend of Isis, Judo Girl, Styx & Stone, Deathsport Games, Orion the Hunter, Blackbeard Legacy, Paparazzi, Warlock*** (based on the Lionsgate film), and ***Leprechaun*** (also based on the Lionsgate film). "I have worked with Arcana in the past and am excited to team up with them again," Bluewater's *Darren G. Davis* said. "Teaming up with another independent comic book company, the foundation can only strengthen our brands."

"Darren and Arcana did ***Valkyrie*** back in the day and it's great to be working with him again," Arcana CEO *Sean Patrick O'Reilly* added. "He is one of the most talented and prolific creators I've worked with, and everyone is very excited about these dozens of graphic novels added into our library."

Back to Press

•***Action Comics #1 5th Printing*** (JAN128146), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 3/28.
•***Adventure Time #1 3rd Printing*** (JAN128109), featuring a new cover by *Shelli Paroline,* in stores 3/21.
•***Detective Comics #1 6th Printing*** (JAN128147), in stores 3/28.
•***Batman #1 4th Printing*** (JAN128140), in stores 3/28.
•***Batman #4 3rd Printing*** (Jan128165), in stores 3/28.
•***Batman: The Dark Knight #1 3rd Printing*** (JAN128148), in stores 3/28.
•***Batman: The Dark Knight #6 2nd Printing*** (JAN128159), in stores 3/28.
•***Invincible #89 2nd Printing*** (JAN128085), in stores 3/28.
•***Supurbia #1 2nd Printing*** (JAN128225), featuring a new cover by *Jonboy Meyers*, in stores 3/28.

Valiant Sounds Off About X-O

Valiant's pretty proud of their latest marketing innovation: an ***X-O Manowar #1 QR Voice Variant,*** blurbed as "the world's first QR code-augmented, talking comic book cover." And, starting this February 29th, the only place to see this comic milestone live and in action will be in local comic shops nationwide when Valiant ships thousands of interactive, retailer-exclusive posters previewing this innovative comics breakthrough.

"Valiant's QR Voice Variant is not only a new innovation in comics and a true incentive for retailers," Valiant Chief Creative Officer *Dinesh Shamdasani* said,"but an enhanced and immersive experience for fans as well. By merging elements of print and digital, we've hopefully created something that fans will just have to see in person!"

"From a storytelling standpoint alone, the technology we're employing here holds enormous potential," Valiant Executive Editor Warren Simons added. "For the first time anywhere, and exclusively on the printed page, Valiant can literally give its characters a voice."

The cover, featuring art by *Jelena Kevic-Djurdjevic,* is slated for May 2nd release.

ACTION COMICS #8

Grant Morrison (W); Rags Morales (A)
(DC FEB120178 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Superman confronts Brainiac with the final fate of Metropolis hanging on the outcome. This is the battle that establishes the Man of Steel as Earth's pre-eminent hero!

Why Should You Care?

In a brilliant reinterpretation of numerous archetypal Superman memes, *Grant Morrison* establishes a new mythos that is reminiscent of the old, but distinctly different in a bold and refreshing way. There's something old, something new, something borrowed, an something red-yellow-and-blue in this riveting reinvention of the Man of Steel.

AMERICA'S GOT POWERS #1 (OF 6)

Jonathan Ross (W); Bryan Hitch (A)
(Image FEB120402 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Forget shows that promise the winner a musical career or a tycoon apprenticeship—here's a TV show that offers its winner a chance to prove he or she has the most impressive superpowers. And with great powers come great fringe benefits!

Why Should You Care?

British celebrity-turned-comics-writer *Jonathan Ross* enlists superstar illustrator *Bryan Hitch* to supply the stunning art for the comic book look at super-reality TV.

CSN TOP

AVENGERS VS X-MEN #1 (OF 12)

Brian Bendis (W); John Romita Jr (A)
(Marvel JAN120625 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Scarlet Witch is back. The Phoenix is drawing nearer to the Earth. And Hope is faced with a choice that can change everything. Problem is, the Avengers and the X-Men don't agree on how they should deal with all of this... and that paves the way for the confrontation of the year!

Why Should You Care?

Sure, the Avengers and the X-Men have fought each other before—but never with stakes as high as this. This is the sort of battle that can change the status quo for the entire Marvel Universe... and Marvel's hinting very strongly that readers can look forward to just such a change by the time it's all over!

©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc.
All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

COMICS: APRIL

BATGIRL #8

Gail Simone (W); Ardian Syaf (A)
(DC FEB120200 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Think you know about the traumatic even that reshaped Barbara Gordon's life? Well, it turns out that there's *another* incident... a Gordon family secret never before revealed. Until now, of course...

Why Should You Care?

Gail Simone fills in a major missing piece in the puzzle of Barbara Gordon's life in this issue—and if that's not enough, she's also introducing a never villain into Barbara's rogues gallery, the metahuman thief and killer known as Grotesque.

COURTNEY CRUMRIN ONGOING #1

Ted Naifeh (W/A)
(Oni FEB121115 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Courtney's uncle Aloysius introduced her to a strange world filled with magic and Night Things, a realm where nothing is as it seems. But what started the Crumrin clan down this dark path?

Why Should You Care?

Ted Naifeh's charming heroine is back in her first-ever full-color ongoing series that offers new insights into the backstory of Courtney and her family.

DANGER CLUB #1

Landry Quinn Walker (W); Eric Jones (A)
(Image FEB120420 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When all the superheroes leave the Earth to confront the deadliest menace in the universe—and then never return—it's up to the teenage sidekicks to form Earth's last line of defense.

Why Should You Care?

In works like *Prophet, Glory,* and *Hell Yeah!,* Image has revitalized the revisionist-superhero movement. Now *Landry Quinn Walker & Eric Jones* offer a look at the super-heroic equivalent of the Not-Ready-for-Prime-Time-Players—sidekicks forced to graduate to solo heroes whether they're ready or not.

FANBOYS VS ZOMBIES #1

Sam Humphries (W); Jerry Gaylord (A)
(Boom FEB120828 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

A crew of feuding best friends find themselves trapped at a zombified Comic-Con—but can they use their combined comics knowledge to overcome the undead hordes?

Why Should You Care?

Think *Big Bang Theory* meets *The Walking Dead* and you have some idea what to expect from this zany nerd-horror series.

GREEN LANTERN: THE ANIMATED SERIES #1

Art Baltazar & Franco (W); Dario Brizuela (A)
(DC FEB120274 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Hal Jordan must face off against a captured Red Lantern and his own mentor, Kilowog, in the premiere issue of this new series.

Why Should You Care?

Now readers of all ages can thrill to the adventures of Green Lantern, thanks to this new comic inspired by the Cartoon Network animated series. What better way of preparing younger readers for the wonders of the Green Lanterns, the Guardians, and the rest of the Lantern mythos? And veteran readers shouldn't feel guilty—it's perfectly understandable if you want to get in on the fun, too!

GROO VS CONAN #1 (OF 4)

Mark Evanier (W); Sergio Aragones & Tom Yeates (A)
(Dark Horse FEB120046 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

It's the barbarian face-off that everyone dreaded... err, dreamed of!

Why Should You Care?

With *Mark Evanier* handling the story, *Sergio Aragones* handling the layout and the Groo art, and *Tom Yeates* doing the Conan imagery, there's something here for every barbarian fan to love!

JUSTICE LEAGUE #8

Geoff Johns (W); Carlos D'Anda & Gary Frank (A)
(DC FEB120160 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the five years that the Justice League has been a team, they've never had an ace archer in their ranks... and that's a mistake that Green Arrow intends to remedy!

Why Should You Care?

After the series' five-years-ago beginning, *Geoff Johns* continues to offer a look at the current Justice League, complete with intriguing clues on what happened in the five-year gap. And if that's not enough to pique your interest, there's always that *Geoff Johns-Gary Frank* reinvention of the Shazam mythos running as a backup story!

POPEYE #1 (OF 4)

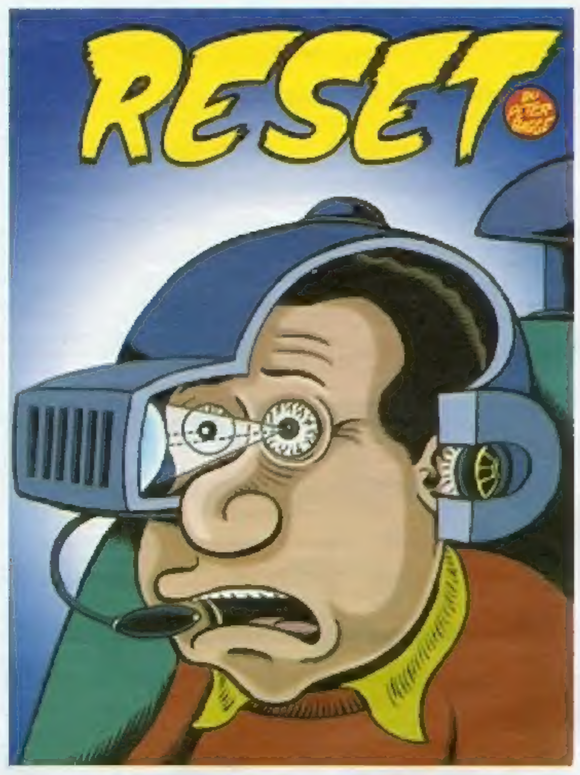
Roger Langridge (W); Bruce Ozella (A)
(IDW FEB120338 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Popeye, Olive Oyl, Brutus, Swee'Pea—the whole gang is back!

Why Should You Care?

This original series that reminds us of the charms of the spinach-eating sailor man, thanks to the on-the-mark storytelling of *Roger Langridge* and the remarkable E.C. Segar-esque art by new talent *Bruce Ozella.* (And if you're a real Popeye aficionado, you'll have to have the variant cover by the inimitable *Jules Feiffer!).*



RESET #1 (OF 4)

Peter Bagge (W/A)
(Dark Horse FEB120044 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

What would you do if you could relive major events in your life? Make things better... or take advantage of your advance knowledge of history to put your most twisted, perverse fantasies in motion?

Why Should You Care?

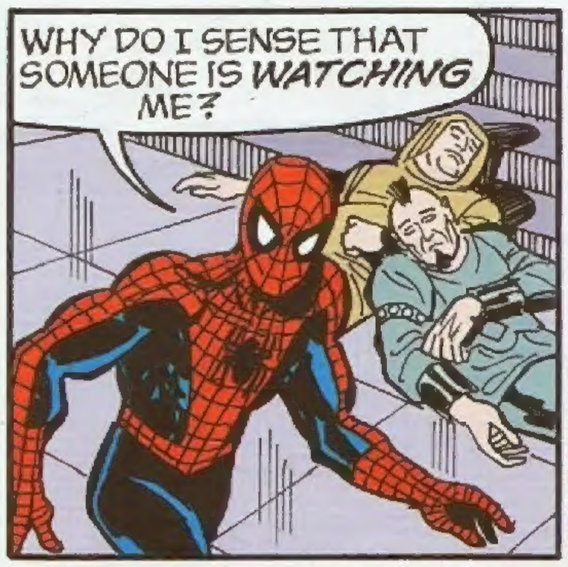
Peter Bagge offers an intriguing look at the darker side of human nature in this tale of a washed-up actor who gets a chance that most people only dream of...

RESIDENT ALIEN #0

Peter Hogan (W); Steve Parkhouse (A)
(Dark Horse FEB120016 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

After surviving a crash landing that destroys his spaceship, a stranded alien make a life for himself as a semi-retired doctor in the sleepy town of Patience, USA.



©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Why Should You Care?

Peter Hogan & Steve Parkhouse prove that even the most unearthly alien can embrace the best aspects of human nature in this story that blends SF, humor, and human interest.

SECRET #1

Jonathan Hickman (W); Ryan Bodenheim (A)
(Image FEB120405 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

A man gets shot in London, a law firm gets broken into in Washington, an accountant gives away the password to his computer, and something put to sleep 20 years ago awakens. What is the unsavory relationship all these things share, and how could it bring down two of the largest governments in the history of the world?

Why Should You Care?

Superstar storyteller *Jonathan Hickman* teams up with his ***Red Mass For Mars*** collaborator *Ryan Bodenheim* for an espionage-suspense melodrama that take a look at the shadow world that exists between the government and private security firms.

SECRET SERVICE #1

Mark Millar (W); Dave Gibbons (A)
(Icon/Marvel FEB120640 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

How do you build a James Bond? Find out in this series that chronicles the education and reinvention of a 21st century superspy as a veteran agent takes a newcomer under his wing and teaches him into the beset he is at what he does.

Why Should You Care?

How can you *not* care for a project that teams edgy storyteller *Mark Millar* with the incomparable *Dave Gibbons,* co-creator and illustrator of the best-selling graphic novel of all time, ***The Watchmen?***

THE SHADOW #1

Garth Ennis (W); Aaron Campbell (A)
(Dynamite FEB120897 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The most famous pulp hero of all time is caught up in a tale of intrigue and conspiracy in this fast-paced adventure-drama set in pre-war 1938.

Why Should You Care?

The fact that there *hasn't* been a Shadow comic in many years is a pop-culture crime—but *Garth Ennis* is about to make up for lost time with this grand adventure that captures everything that defined the Shadow in his prime. And just wait 'til you see the evocative period-piece art of *Aaron Campbell!*

Check 'Em Out:
Comics You Should Be Reading!

3 STORY: SECRET FILES OF THE GIANT MAN ONE SHOT

(Dark Horse FEB120048 $3.50)

Matt Kindt revisits the world of his acclaimed 2009 graphic novel with this oneshot featuring previously untold tales of Craig Pressgang's life as a spy.

ALABASTER WOLVES #1 (OF 5)

(Dark Horse FEB120028 $3.50)

Caitlin R. Kiernan brings one of her most enduring and popular creations, monster fighter Dancy Flammarion, to comics.

AQUAMAN #8

(DC FEB120165 $2.99)

If you think Aquaman is still a superhero joke, you're about as far behind the times as a typewriter-ribbon salesman. The new Aquaman is one of DC's most powerful and compelling heroes—and in this issue, you'll learn that he was part of another super-team before there ever was a Justice League!

AVX VS #1 (OF 6)

(Marvel FEB120531 $3.99)

This ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** tie-in is the perfect book for readers who want minimum plot complexities and maximum slugfest action!

FURY OF FIRESTORM, THE NUCLEAR MEN #8

(DC FEB120173 $2.99)

New cowriter *Joe Harris* joins the team with this issue—and fellow cowriter *Ethan Van Sciver* steps up to supply the interior art as well!

MERCILESS: RISE OF MING #1

(Dynamite FEB120947 $3.99)

Scott Beatty & Ron Adrian look at the origins of one of comics' most malevolent villains in this miniseries that reveals who Ming was before he became Merciless.

RAMIEL: WRATH OF GOD #1

(Ape FEB120734 $3.99)

In God's army, there is no warrior more fearsome than the Angel Ramiel - but when this enforcer of the Almighty is plagued by visions calling him away, he must make a decision that will shake the pillars of Heaven and Earth in this metaphysical adventure written by *Javier Grillo-Marxuach.*

STAR WARS: BLOOD TIES—BOBA FETT IS DEAD #1 (OF 4)

(Dark Horse FEB120009 $3.50)

Boba Fett, the galaxy's most feared bounty hunter, is dead. But when members of the team that killed Fett are themselves picked off one by one, Connor Freeman-the son of one of Jango Fett's clones-gets pulled into the action in a most unexpected way!

SWAMP THING #8

(DC FEB120212 $2.99)

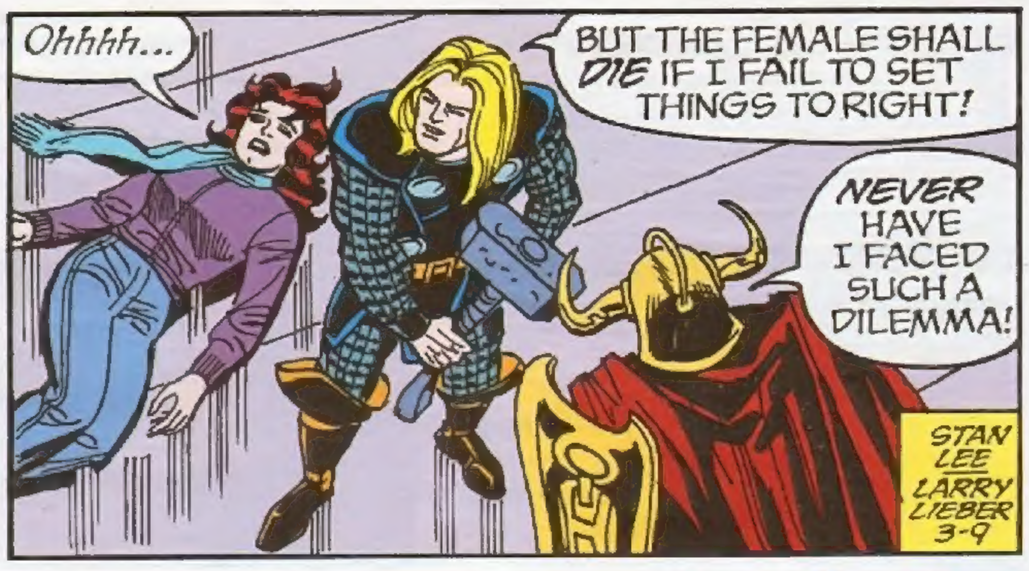
We've seen hints as to just what the Swamp Thing is capable of—but in this issue, *Scott Snyder & Yanick Paquette* reveal the terrifying potential of the Swamp Thing... (Who would have believed that the New 52 ***Swamp Thing*** would manage to out-Vertigo Vertigo's take on the swamp monster?)

VOLTRON: YEAR ONE #1

(Dynamite FEB120956 $3.99)

Before they were known as the legendary Voltron Force, they were Space Explorer Squadron #686 of the Galaxy Alliance, tasked with keeping the Earth safe and the skies clear in a universe growing more and more dangerous every day. Now we learn the details of the impossible mission that led to their transformation to the Voltron Force.

STAND THEE ASIDE, HEIMDALL!
I CANNOT! ODIN HAS SAID THOU SHALT NOT PASS!
TH
RAK!
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



Collected Cool: April's Best Reprint Editions

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(Marvel NOV110597 $99.99)

The first two and a half years of the *Stan Lee-John Romita* era of Spidey are highlighted in this oversized book collecting. ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 39-67*** and ***Annual #s 3-5***, complete with covers, pinups, and letters columns.

BERKELEY BREATHED OUTLAND COMPLETE COLLECTION HC

(IDW JAN120442 $39.99)

IDW presents a companion volume to their ***Bloom County*** collections; this volume includes all of Berke Breathed's *Outland* strips—one of the strangest "sequels" in comic strip history.

BLACK ORCHID DELUXE EDITION HC

(Vertigo/DC DEC110318 $24.99)

A hardcover collection of pre-*Sandman* four-issue miniseries that *Neil Gaiman & Dave McKean* on the map.

EERIE PRESENTS HUNTER HC

(Dark Horse DEC110061 $19.99)

The latest in Dark Horse's themed Warren Magazine collections includes the complete adventures of all three incarnations of the Hunter character, with art by *Paul Neary* & others.

FLASH OMNIBUS BY GEOFF JOHNS HC VOL 2

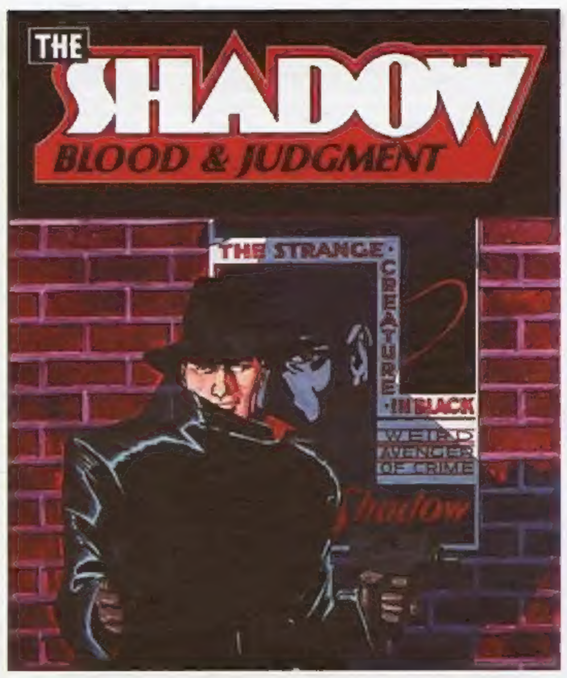
(DC NOV110197 $75.00)

This compendium offers another heaping helping of *Geoff Johns* Wally West Flash tales, including ***Flash #177-200*** and ***DC First: Flash/Superman #1.***

FLEX MENTALLO MAN OF MUSCLE MYSTERY DELUXE HC

(DC OCT110285 $22.99)

It's been out of print for so long that everyone had begun to think they'd never see it back in print, but here it is: the cult-classic ***Doom Patrol*** spinoff miniseries by *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely.*



SHADOW: BLOOD & JUDGMENT TP

(Dynamite FEB120904 $19.99)

Trade paperback collecting the long-out-of-print miniseries by *Howard Chaykin.*

SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE SPECTRE TP VOL 1

(DC OCT110255 $19.99)

DC's first Silver Age metaphysically-cosmic hero gets his long-overdue collection. This 500+ page compendium includes ***Showcase #s 60, 61, & 64, Spectre #s 1-10, Adventure #s 431-440***, and much more, featuring material by *Murphy Anderson, Jerry Grandenetti, Neal Adams, Jim Aparo,* and others.

ULTIMATE COMICS AVENGERS BY MARK MILLAR OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel NOV110596 $75.00)

Ultimately, you *know* you're going to want this hefty hardcover collecting ***Ultimate Avengers #s 1-6, Ultimate Avengers 2 #s 1-6, Ultimate Avengers 3 #s 1-6,*** and ***Ultimate Comics Avengers Vs. New Ultimates #s 1-6.***

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ART OF DANIEL CLOWES MODERN CARTOONIST HC

(Abrams JAN120777 $40.00)

This hefty hardcover includes all of Clowes's best-known illustrations as well as rare and previously unpublished work.

ART OF RAMONA FRADON HC

(Dynamite FEB120951 $29.99)

Ramona Fradon, illustrator of Aquaman and Brenda Starr, among many other accomplishments has conquered both the world of comic *books* and the world of comic *strips* during his lengthy and prestigious career, and now you can learn all about her in this retrospective of Fradon's career, built around an interview with Fradon by legendary creator *Howard Chaykin.*

CHICKS DIG COMICS: A CELEBRATION OF COMIC BOOKS BY WOMEN SC

(Mad Norwegian JAN121364 $14.95)

Ignore the quasi-sexist title—this book assembled by *Lynne M. Thomas & Sigrid Ellis* bring together essays by award-winning writers and artists who celebrate the comics medium and its female creators.

GENIUS ILLUSTRATED: THE LIFE & ART OF ALEX TOTH HC VOL 2

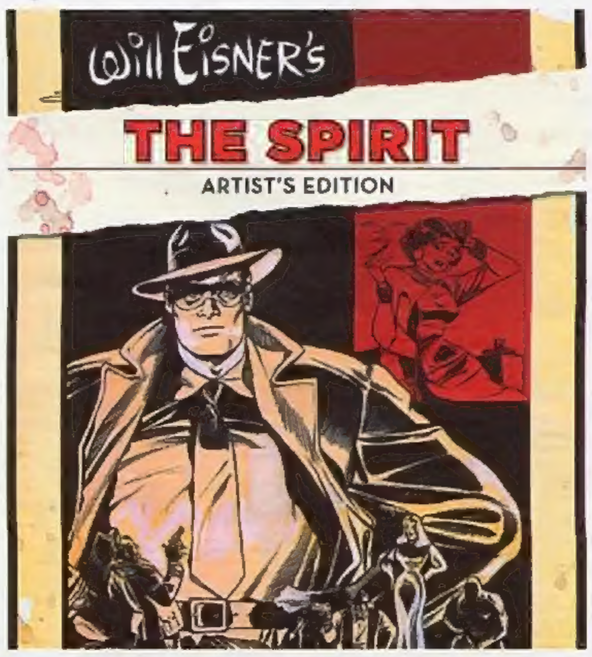
(IDW FEB120393 $49.99)

Dean Mullaney & Bruce Canwell focus on Toth's life and career from the 1960s until Toth's poignant death in 2006. Long praised as an artist's artist, Toth is one of the most influential figures in comics, and this insightful volume reveals why.

WILL EISNER'S SPIRIT ARTIST'S EDITION HC

(IDW JAN120420 $199.00)

This massive 16" x 23" collection of classic Eisner Spirit tales, shot in full color from the original art to fully reveal the pencils, corrections, etc. is almost like owning the original art in book form! Don't pass up a chance to own this book—remember, the prior ***Wally Wood Artist's Edition*** sold out before publication, and this book is sure to follow suit.



Hot Commodities: April's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

MR. FIXIT HULK STATUE

(Bowen Designs DEC111733 $240.00)

Massive 13.5" sculpture by Bowen Designs' *Khurram Alavi* depicts the Gray Hulk in his Mr. Fixit persona.

BATMAN ARKHAM CITY SERIES 2 BATMAN (TEC MODE) ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN120384 $28.00)

BATMAN ARKHAM CITY SERIES 2 CATWOMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN120383 $28.00)

BATMAN ARKHAM CITY SERIES 2 HUSH ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN120385 $28.00)

BATMAN ARKHAM CITY SERIES 2 MAD HATTER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN120386 $28.00)

BATMAN ARKHAM CITY SERIES 2 RIDDLER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN120382 $28.00)

The latest series of ultra-detailed action figures inspired by the hit videogame.

©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

Ghosts haunt the waves of Liberty Island. Now, they'll haunt you.

GONE TO AMERIKAY

A century-spanning original graphic novel about Irish emigres searching for a dream.

© 2012 Derek McCulloch and Colleen Doran. Vertigo is a trademark of DC Comics.

written by

Eisner Award nominee

DEREK McCULLOCH

illustrated by

COLLEEN DORAN

VERTIGO
vertigocomics.com

Comic Shop Locator Service: **comicshoplocator.com**